MARSHALL, DENNEHEY, WARNER, COLEMAN & GOGGIN

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

www.marshalldennehey.com

1220 N. Market St., 5th Floor, P.O. Box 8888 · Wilmington, DE 19899-8888 (302) 552-4300 · Fax (302) 651-7905

Direct Dial: 302-552-4317

Email: dagriffith@mdwcg.com

January 13, 2006

Todd Schiltz, Esquire Wolf Block Wilmington Trust Center Suite 1001 1100 N. Market Street Wilmington, DE 19801

Re: Robert Sokolove v. Rehoboth Beach

Our File No: 20021-00101 Case No: 05-514 KAJ

Dear Todd:

It was apparent in our initial discussions, following Judge Jordan's Opinion of July 26, 2005, continued to be apparent during the course of the mediation and remains apparent today, that the central impediment to resolving this case is a purely legal issue: whether and to what extent plaintiffs may be entitled to recover their counsel fees under 42 U.S.C. §1988. I have a proposal that maybe worthwhile in resolving this point.

What follows is a purely hypothetical scenario and is not intended to express any view concerning the relative merits of our positions. Moreover, what follows is truly for settlement purposes and is not to be deemed evidentiary pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 408.

I believe that you and I (at least at the mediation) seem to agree that the following scenario was possible, probable or even inevidable:

- 1. While the Ordinance at issue is not facially unconstitutional, it was enforced in an unconstitutional fashion by the City of Rehoboth Beach in advance of the August 13, 2005 elections. Thus, we can presume for purposes of this proposal that plaintiffs will be able to establish that a constitutional violation occurred.
- 2. While plaintiffs may prove that a constitutional violation occurred, plaintiffs may not be able to prove that the constitutional violation was the proximate cause of the election results.

PENNSYLVANIA Bethlehem Doylestown Erie Harrisburg King of Prussia Philadelphia Pittsburgh Scranton Williamsport

New Jersey Cherry Hill Roseland

DELAWARE Wilmington

OHIO Akron

FLORIDA
Ft. Lauderdale
Jacksonville
Orlando



Todd Schiltz, Esquire January 13, 2006 Page 2

- 3. In the absence of any actual damages, i.e., (a constitutional violation without proximate cause), the Court will still award nominal damages to plaintiffs.
- 4. The establishment of the constitutional violation and the entitlement to nominal damages will allow the Court, if it is so inclined, to exercise its discretion to award counsel fees to the plaintiffs.

If this scenario plays out, the real dispute between our clients is whether the Court will, in fact, exercise its discretion to award counsel fees. Your clients believe that the Court will award counsel fees under the circumstances and my clients believe that the absence of proximate cause and/or actual damages means that Court will likely not award counsel fees.

Rather than continue to consume time and expense litigating what will ultimately be this precise legal issue, I propose that we submit the issue for resolution to Judge Jordan upon the facts which are stipulated for purposes of his ruling. That is, we propose the foregoing four paragraphs as "stipulations" to Judge Jordan for purposes of seeking his advisory ruling on whether counsel fees would be awarded under the circumstances. Obviously, Judge Jordan's advisory ruling would likely resolve the case.

I would appreciate your contacting me in order to flush this out a little further and to discuss your client's amenability to this proposal.

Very truly yours,

DAG/lar

\15_A\LIAB\DAGRIFFITH\CORR\328122\LAREFNER\20021\00101